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~~File COMMO # 001, Doc. # 12~~

SOURCE RECAMBARD/1

Info about some persons

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Dr. BERGMANIS Harijs:

Born ab.1922. His father was an official of the Customs Administration in Riga (Rīgas Muitas pārvalde - in Latv.) during free Latvia. His mother supposedly was of Russian origin since the parents as well as their children spoke fluently Russian. Harijs B. has a sister Alise who was born ab.1920. The latter attended the 2nd Municipal Gymnasium in Riga from ab.1934 to 1939; in 1941, after the Soviet withdrawal from Latvia, she got married to ŠVEICS Vidvuds, her former school-mate; in 1942 she gave the birth of their first child, son Aivars; at this time the ŠVEICS were living in Riga at Blaumapa St. 26, Apt.23.

Harijs Bergmanis, too, attended the a/m gymnasium, approx. from 1936 to 1941. He was a rather phlegmatic boy, bespectacled; was quite good in gymnastics. About in 1942 he started to study medicine at the University of Latvia in Riga; among his class-mates here was the son of Dr.med. RUDZĪTIS Kristaps (the latter was a well-known physician in Riga and a member of the Faculty of Medicine at the a/m university; he and his son remained in Latvia in 1944*).

In October 1944 Harijs B. left Riga together with his sister and her family in order to escape from Kurzeme to Sweden. His brother i.l., ŠVEICS Vidvuds, managed to obtain for him a certificate from the Frontaufklärungstrupp 212 (a military espionage unit of the German Army) which enabled H.B. to live in Kurzeme for a couple months without being bothered by the German security forces. They arrived in Ventspils about in ^{the} mid-October and lived here on Saules St. for about a month together with other refugees from Riga, among

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them
the family of ~~BERMANIS~~ Edgars (see card 1992), Mr. & Mrs. PUKSIS Edmunds
(the latter is now in Sweden where she is re-married to the noted economist-
statistician, ZĪVERTS Kārlis - a co-worker of Gen. TEPFERS Verners), Mrs.
KRASTINŠ Dzidra, nee VĪBULIS (now in Sweden, re-married to the Lutheran
Reverend, ČUIBE Leonids, in Uppsala), Mrs. JANSONS Ragnija, nee Gailītis
(see card 122)^{and others.} ^{except Mr. & Mrs. PUKSIS} All these persons[^] were listed then by Bruno and this list
was submitted to Dr. ĢINTERS Valdis who was registering all the prospective
illegal travelers^{from Kurzeme}[^] to Sweden. At the beginning of November all the persons
listed by Bruno received an order from a co-worker of Dr. V. ĢINTERS, the
well-known "Osis" (i.e. BĪLESKALNS Osvalds), that they have to move out
from Ventpils to the seashore around Jūrkalne where they should wait for
the boats from Sweden. As far as Bruno remembers, Harijs B. and his relatives
were billeted in the farmstead "Roni" in Jūrkalne. From this group only
Mrs. KRASTINŠ (now ČUIBE) managed to escape to Sweden on the night of
18 November because it happened that ~~xx~~ there was a vacant place on the boat
this night. Harijs B. participated together with his brother i.l. and
other younger men, among them LŪKINS Jānis (now in Stockholm, Sweden),
in clandestine patrols along the seacoast to watch for the boats from Sweden.
Around Christmas 1944 the Germans made a big raid in order to catch the
illegal would-be travelers; in this raid both Harijs B. and ŠVEICS Vidvuds
got arrested, ~~xxx~~ imprisoned in a jail in Liepaja and interrogated by the SD.
Though imprisoned in separate cells they managed to get in contact and co-
ordinate their testimonies because a prison guard, ZAĻKALNS fru, was well
acquainted with V. ŠVEICS (both were members of the fraternity "Talavia").
At this time an officer of the Frontaufklärungstrupp 212, Lt. von Fircks
(see card 906) interrogated some of Bruno's co-workers in Kuldīga as to
the purposes of V. ŠVEICS and H. BERGMANIS being AWOLs. After a couple months
both were released from the prison - V. ŠVEICS got assigned to a reserve unit
(company) of the Latvian Legion in Liepaja but H.B. returned to Jūrkalne

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where the wife of V.ŠVEICS still was waiting for the illegal boats. During the days of capitulation V.ŠVEICS joined ^{to} his family in Jūrkalne since he thought that now it will be possible to escape to Sweden. About a week after the capitulation V.Š. and H.B. got detained by the Soviets and brought ^{from Jūrkalne} to the "filtration" camp near Ventspils. Here they formed together with another Latvian a trio which managed to get on good terms with the MVD camp guards since they spoke Russian and showed no fear. When the investigating officers of the MVD visited this camp to make decisions as to the further fate of the camp inmates, these guards described this trio as "our people" and they were released. Shortly afterwards H.B. went to Riga to take up his studies. About 1947 he graduated from the University of Latvia. In summer 1947 or 1948 he worked as an auxiliary physician at the health resort of Ķemeri; at this time he was already married. Despite this fact he had several love affairs in Ķemeri with his patients - wealthy Russian wives. Now and then he was also the physician in charge during sport events in Riga. Besides his income as a physician he made much money by practicing illegal abortion though there were heavy fines if such cases were detected by the authorities. In 1948 he was assigned to the post of the ^{hospital} director in Viesīte (5622 2534). / the last paragraph is based on VALDEMARS' statements in fall 1948 - Br./.

Bruno remembers H.B. as a phlegmatic young man who did not like to take orders and showed no enthusiasm for the Latvian cause, was very sceptical, sometimes even cynical. Often he was grinning about serious matters and ^{about} one could get very angry ~~on~~ this. He seemed to be rather lazy and was often stubborn - it could be that he was rather spoiled by his parents. Since his sister, Alise, was known already at the school as a covetous girl it could be assumed that H.B. choose to become a physician not by idealistic motives. For his description see Bruno's report about 19 potentially helpful persons (in Latvian), submitted to PAUL in spring 1953.

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More detailed info about H.B. could be obtained from:

KUKAINIS Roberts (see card 915), who supposedly was H.B.'s teacher at the
2nd Municipal Gymnasium in Riga; now in the USA;

Mrs. ČUIBE Dzidra (see page 2), who in October/November 1944 was almost daily
together with him; now in Sweden, Uppsala, Järnbrogatan 60 c;

LŪKINS Jānis (see page 2), who patrolled together with H.B. at nights
in Jūrkalne; in spring 1949 asked VALDEMARS about H.B.
whom he remembered well.

As to the sister of H.B., ŠVEICS Alise, she was mentioned several times
by "Cīņa" in 1953 as a member of the All-Latvian volleyball team who traveled
also outside Latvia in other Soviet countries. According to VALDEMARS she
was living together with her parents and two children (a daughter, Dagmara,
was born ab. 1946) in Riga, Padomju Boulevard 2, Apt. 4, i.e. on the northwest
corner of this boulevard and Lēpina (formerly Kalpa) St. Later VALDEMARS
mentioned in a letter that the house number has been changed - the new number
was either 12 or 16 (should be mentioned somewhere in the old materials of
Bruno). Recently her name has disappeared from the Soviet publications.

VĪTOLS Izolde, nee BĒRZIŅŠ (see card 1970)

Besides the info recorded on her card and in File # 204, Doc. # 2, p. 6, the
following info was obtained from one of her former class-mates at the 2nd
Municipal Gymnasium:

She was an intelligent and beautiful girl who had also much success with the
boys. However, she was at this time premature - some facts indicated that
she knows more about sexual matters than her class-mates, probably had had
already then much experience in love affairs. Once she expressed a rather
odd thought that mature men with gray hair are much more interesting than
the stupid boys in school. It occurred also that she wrote compositions
in class which showed that she is pre-occupied with big and sad problems

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of the human nature. Her favorite book was "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo, the famous French writer.

After graduating from the a/m gymnasium she got married to a Latvian jurist in 1938 or 1939. Her husband was a member of one of the student fraternities, was a nice young man, employed at that time by some municipal or state agency in Riga on the corner of Liela Smilšu and Trokšņu St. Shortly afterwards a daughter was born to her (besides, APSĪTIS Andrejs, her school-mate, made ~~XXXXXX~~ a formal call to her in this regard and proposed that this daughter should have the first name Maruta; it was not accepted, however). During 1940/41 the VĪTOLS lived in Priedaine (between Riga and Rīgas Jūrmala) in a private house.

Her father was the manager of one of the breweries of "Aldaris" in Riga on Matīsa St. between Brīvības and Tērbatas St.; an apartment for his family was at his disposal here. There were rumors that her father is a drunkard; in any case her parents had big troubles at home. He died presumably in 1937 or 1938. -

Bruno attended for one year the same class of elementary school as I.V. at the school in Bulduri, Muižas St. 4 in 1928/29. At this time her father was the manager of the "Kuncendorfs" brewery in Bulduri. She was then the best pupil in the second grade. She had some trouble with her lungs (supposedly an inactive process of TB) and it was told that this fact caused the move of the BĒRZIŅŠ from Bulduri to Riga.

In summer 1935 Bruno visited her in Kuldīga where her aunt or some other close relative was living. Bruno was very surprised that at this time she had a boy-friend, a local policeman of Kuldīga, who was much older than she; it seemed that both were on very intimate terms.

During the unofficial graduating ball in June 1938, which was held in Beberbeki on the outskirts of Riga, she choose APSĪTIS Andrejs as her date and slept together with him the following night. This caused another boy,

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her ex-date, BUŠERŠ Eduards, to commit suicide which failed.

She is of short height, has an oval face with a classic profile, brown eyes, dark hair, wide hips.

As far as Bruno remembers she and her parents were Greek-Orthodox.

In Bruno's opinion she was a very intelligent girl who had a suppressed desire to have a fast life. Her political attitude is a big question.

BERGS Hermanis

He could be one of the brothers of BERGS Hugo. The latter was born 1919; attended the 2nd Municipal Gymnasium in Riga from 1933 to 1938; started to study veterinary science at the University of Latvia but was arrested in spring 1941 by the NKVD due to his participation in national underground movement (see Bruno's autobiography). A short time later also his father, a sea captain, and two or three brothers were deported to Russia. As far as Bruno remembers one of these brothers had the first name Hermanis and was a couple years younger than Hugo B.; so now he could be 30-35 years old. The Bergs were known as a very patriotic family though their living conditions were rather poor.

ZĪLE Tugolfs

Unknown. This first name is very strange in Latvian; probably there is an error in its spelling.

DINVIETIS, fnu

Unknown. The name sounds somehow familiar though it is a rare one in Latvian. The name DINVIETIS appears in the sports section of "Laiks", 2 July 1955, p.8. An article mentions there that Daina DINVIETE and Viesturs DINVIETIS from Uppsala participated at the 9th championship in cross-country race for the Latvians in Sweden and were among the winners.

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LEIMANIS Oskars

Born ab.1919. His father, Jānis LEIMANIS, was lecturer in road engineering at the University of Latvia since 1925; in 1945 he escaped to Sweden where he lives together with his oldest son Juris (born ab.1918) and his wife Eizēaija, nee ROLE (more about him see E.V.P. and Latv.Encyclppaedia). Both his sons attended the French Lyceum in Riga. At that time the LEIMANIS lived in Mežaparks across the Zoo where they owned a two-storey private house. After graduating from the a/m lyceum Juris L. studied engineering but Oskars either economics or law at the University of Latvia; both were members of the fraternity "Fraternitas Lettica". About 1942 Oskars L. married Velta LŪSIS (born ab.1922), daughter of the noted Latvian soloist-singer LŪSIS Herta. In 1943 or 1944 both brothers were enrolled into the Latvian Legion. During the days of the capitulation in May 1945 Juris L. managed to escape to Sweden (was in hospital in Liepāja at this time) but Oskars L. remained in Kurzeme.

According to VALDEMARS (as told in 1948/49) Oskars L. came as POW to Russia but was comparatively well off there because he possesses the rare gift to get adjusted to every living conditions and situations. About in fall 1946 he was released to Riga, Latvia; spent here several month in a transit-camp for ex-POWs and afterwards got a good job in Riga. He became also a member of ^athe national underground group, probably the same where VALDEMARS was active, and had the task to build up an underground cell among the artists of Riga Opera House (got this assignement due to his connections with many artists there who were well acquainted with him because of his marriage with the daughter of Herta Lūsis, a former star with this Opera Company). In 1948 Oskars L. went to Liepāja in order to check the possibility of a illegal boat action to Sweden by using the boats of Liepāja Yacht Club. He unceasingly thought about his wife and hoped to get re-united with her - was an exemplary husband in this aspect.

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At the time VALDEMARS told all this it was known that the wife of Oskars L. is in West Germany and has lost all hopes to see her husband again. Thus VALDEMARS agreed that the a/m facts should be told^{by Bruno} to Oskar's brother, Juris Leimanis, who was studying engineering in Stockholm (the latter is very well acquainted with VALDEMARS; was his boss for a period at the Traffic Inspection in Riga during the German occupation in 1942; VOLDEMARS however was afraid to have a meeting with him since he knew Juris L. as a rather talkative person). About in March 1949 Bruno asked Juris L. for a private talk and explained him the situation of his brother, stressing that this should be kept in the strictest secrecy. A couple month later, however, it came out that Juris L. had told thés news to several persons in Stockholm, mentioning that his brother Oskars is already on the way to Sweden. Upon that Bruno sent a very strong warning to Juris L. to cease with such dangerous talks which could result in the death of his brother.

The wife of Oskars L., Velta, immigrated in the USA together with her mother in 1950 and re-married to ELKSNĪTIS Juris (the latter is studying dentistry at the Harvard University, Mass.). Her address: 750 West Riverside, N.Y.C. Presently she is employed as assistant manager at some Aged Home for Jews in New York and is well off - has an income of \$7000-8000 a year.

Oskars L. speaks fluently Russian (his mother is of Russian origin), also German and some French. His uncle, LEIMANIS Augusts, former director of the French Lyceum, remained in Latvia in 1944. Another uncle, LEIMANIS Oskars (Director General of Transportation during the German occupation), lives now in Grand Rapids, Mich.

It is probable that Oskars L. was well acquainted with APSĪTIS Andrejs already during the Ulmanis' time since they were close neighbours in Mežaparks. In any case Juris Leimanis was very well acquainted with A. Apsītis since both ^{artillery} were officers with the 19th Division of the Latvian Legion in Kurzeme.

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During the a/m conversation with Juris L. the fact that A.Apsītis is alive and married with DAMBĪTIS Guna was mentioned by Bruno. Since Juris L. as well as A.Apsītis were active members of the Latvian Boy Scout organization it might be that they had participated at common activities. - The LEIMANIS are very well acquainted with Mr.SINGER.

VĪTOLS Alfreds, Dr. med.

Unknown. The first name and especially the surname are very common in Latvian thus he might be a physician of ^{the} younger generation.

A VĪTOLS Jānis Alfreds, born 1889, was a physician in Riga and Chief of the Health Board of Riga during the Ulmanis'time. His family was very well acquainted with the APSĪTIS, especially the wives. He deceased ~~some time~~ after 1938. His daughter Aina (born ab.1920) was a school-mate of APSĪTIS Andrejs. After she had graduated from the 2nd Municipal Gymnasium of Riga in 1938, she started to study medicine at the University of Latvia. During her studies she married to another student of medicine, BARONS fru. The latter got enrolled into the Latvian Legion as a Lieutenant-Physician after having graduated from the university in 1943. After the WW II Aina BARONS lived together with her husband in West Germany, British Zone and got repatriated to Latvia under mysterious circumstances in 1948 or 1949. Later they have been mentioned in "Cīpa" as working at the hospital in Rūjiena(5755 2515); it was told that Dr.BARONS had participated at some postgraduate courses in Leningrad in 1953. The mother of Aina Barons, Jūlija, nee LĪPSBERGA, remained in 1944 in Latvia and this might be the cause why Aina B. returned to Latvia.

Another VĪTOLS, first name Teodors, born 1903, was assistant in surgery at the University of Latvia and obtained the degree of Dr.med in 1935. In 1950 he immigrated in the USA from Germany and now is working at the clinic of the University of Minnesota. - It is very likely that he could give some info as to Dr.med.VĪTOLS Alfreds if the latter is not the a/m Jānis Alfreds Vītols.

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ŠIRONŠ Eduards (not SCHIRONŠ - this would be the spelling in German)

Born 1893 in Vecpiebalga (for his BI data see E.V.P. and Latv.Encylop.).

Was lecturer ~~in~~ at the Faculty of Law and Economics^{Chair of Economics} of the University of

Latvia. Known among the students as a rigorous examiner therefore not popular. An invalid - one arm amputated - which could be the cause of his stern attitude toward the students. It was known among the students that he is in strong favor of the theory of the^{noted} German professor, KONRAD FNU.

In any case he had no sympathies for Communism, i.e. Marxism. He was very conservative regarding his dresses, had crew-cut, was bespectacled.

In 1952/53 he was mentioned several times in "Cīņa" where he was criticized due to his inability to adjust himself to the requirements of the new line of ~~in~~ research in economics. However, several month later he was praised due to his participation at the special courses of Marxism-Leninism^{for faculty members} or something in this line.

He must be well acquainted with Bruno's father since both are from Vecpiebalga and have studied economics. Since Bruno's father, too, was for a short time lecturer at the a/m faculty after the WW II, they had to work together then (a third lecturer at this faculty, STIPRAIS Jānis, was also from Vecpiebalga but deceased a couple years after the WW II). It might be called a bad generalization but the fact is that the older generation with academic education who came from Vecpiebalga formed a certain élite during the new Latvian State and were very proud of this fact. Besides the people of Vecpiebalga were widely known as smart businessmen who are able to adjust themselves to various ways of life.

APSĪTIS Andrejs, too, should be acquainted with E.Š. since the latter had an introductory course in economics also for the law students.

Among the Latvian scientists in exile E.Š. would be best known by:

AIZSIILNIEKS Arnolds, Professor in Economics, now in Stockholm, Sweden;

ZĪVERTS Kārlis, Lecturer in Economics, now in Stockholm, Sweden;

DRILLIS Rūdolfs , Assistant President of the Latv.Univ.in 1940/41; now in N.Y.C.

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The latter was recently member of the Committee for Free Latvia.

CERINS J.

Supposedly CERINŠ. It might be that this is identical with CERINŠ Eduards, Magister of Law, who was employed at the "Latviešu Kartoteka" in 1941-43; arrested by the SD on 6 March 1943 and released after a couple month. Afterwards he continued to participate in the national underground where he worked in the group "Brīvā Latvija", i.e. the members of "Pērkonkrusts". While in the forests in Kurzeme in summer and fall 1945, Bruno received news from Riga (via VALDEMARS) that Eduards CERINŠ is there, tries to organize support for the national partisans and therefore would like to meet Bruno; this meeting, however, did not take place. It is very probable that Ed.Ceripš was among the publishers of the illegal newspaper "Mazais Latvīš" which started to come out irregularly after the WW II.

Bruno remembers that during a conversation with Gen.TEPFERS Verners in ^{spring} 1949 or 1950 the name of Ceripš was mentioned and it came out that Gen.T, too, is acquainted with a CERINŠ - his acquaintance too was a jurist and engaged in national underground in Latvia at this time but, as Gen.T described him, there were some differences which indicated that this man is not identical with Eduards Ceripš. As far as Bruno remembers the person mentioned by Gen.T was a Latvian officer who had fought ^{with} in the Latvian Legion and had also participated at the illegal boat traffic from Kurzeme to Sweden. In any case Bruno got the impression that Gen.T considers him as an able and experienced clandestine worker.

More info about this Ceripš might be obtained from:

Dr.GINTERS Valdis - Stockholm, Sweden;

LŪKINS Jānis - d:o;

PĀRUPS Eriks - 100 Strawberry Hill W.Cottage, Stamford, Conn.(if it is true that Ceripš J. is a Latvian Army officer).

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KĻAVLAPA Eduards (fisherman)

Unknown. As far as it could be checked this name does not appear in "Cīņa" or Riga Radio during 1954 and up to May 1955.

" ANSIS"

Unknown. The only common acquaintance could be MAURINŠ Ansis, now in Great Britain.

Note: As to the code name "PULKVEDIS" it does not necessarily mean that this group is headed by a person in the rank of a colonel.

In 1948/49 Bruno told VALDEMARS the whole story of the imaginary "Colonel" in Kurzeme - how a legend^{about him} had been built up in order to achieve greater discipline among the dispersed groups of national partisans in Kurzeme. It could be that the same method is used now again by some underground group in Latvia.

As to OZOLIŅŠ Peteris see card 1961.

* From ab.Oct.1944 to May 1945 Dr.med. RUDZĪTIS Kristaps was director of the hospital in Talsi, Kurzeme. His son was together with him here and H.B. intended to visit his friend in Talsi in Nov.1944.

In 1953 there was an announcement in "Cīņa" that a physician RUDZĪTIS is going to have a dissertation in order to obtain the degree of the candidate of medical science (medicīnas zinātņu kandidāts - in Latv.) the next scientific degree after having graduated from the university in Soviet Latvia - Br.). The topic of this dissertation was about some medical problem of the health resort Ķemeri. It is probable that this Rudzītis is the son of the a/m Dr.med.K.Rudzītis.

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